



News Release

For immediate release: June 9, 2014

(14-079)

Contacts: [Kelly Stowe](#), Communications Office
[Marqise Allen](#), Communications Office

360-236-4022
360-236-4072

Sexting during surgery among allegations in suspension of physician's license

OLYMPIA — Alleged disregard for patient safety, in some cases related to a variety of sexual incidents, leads the state Medical Quality Assurance Commission to immediately suspend the license of Seattle physician Arthur K. Zilberstein (MD00035662).

The commission's statement of charges says Zilberstein compromised patient safety due to his preoccupation with sexual matters while he was on hospital duty between at least April and August 2013.

According to the charges, Zilberstein frequently exchanged sexually explicit texts during surgeries when he was the responsible anesthesiologist; improperly accessed medical-record imaging for sexual gratification; and had sexual encounters at his workplace.

Charges also state that Zilberstein issued at least 29 unauthorized prescriptions for controlled substances and legend drugs outside of his medical practice and didn't conduct proper evaluations, diagnoses, or treatment plans for these patients. Charges say he didn't obtain their informed consent, provide anti-drug diversion safeguards for controlled substances, or keep medical records, and had sexual relations with one patient for whom he was prescribing drugs.

During the investigation, it was found that Zilberstein made disparaging and racist remarks against a patient and misrepresented his work schedule to an investigator.

Until charges are resolved, Zilberstein can't practice as a physician in Washington. He has 20 days to respond to the charges and to request a hearing.

Legal documents in this case are available by calling 360-236-4700 or online by clicking the link to "Provider Credential Search" on the [agency home page](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov).

Arthur K. Ziberstein

June 9, 2014

Page 2

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission protects and promotes public health, safety, and welfare in Washington by regulating physicians' and physician assistants' competency and quality. The commission develops rules, policies, and procedures to promote delivery of high-quality health care to state residents.

The [Department of Health website](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

###